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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 /050 W
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R 170930Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7538
INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 JAKARTA 3539

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PINT, ID
SUBJECT: SPECULATION ON THE NEW CABINET

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH IN HIS USUAL JAVANESE MANNER, SUHARTO HAS GIVEN FEW INDICATIONS OF THE COMPOSITION OF HIS NEW CABINET, THE FIELD PRESENTED BY EMBASSY SOURCES CLOSEST TO THE PALACE HAS NOW NARROWED TO THE POINT THAT WE FEEL IT WORTH SHARING WITH THE DEPARTMENT. THE PERSONALITIES MENTIONED DO NOT IN THEMSELVES SIGNAL ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN POLICY AND WOULD INFUSE LITTLE NEW DYNAMISM, BUT WE RESERVE FURTHER COMMENT UNTIL WE HAVE SEEN THE ACTUAL LIST. END SUMMARY.

2. ALMOST ALL SOURCES AGREE THAT THE CABINET STRUCTURE WILL BE ENLARGED AT THE TOP AND BOTTOM. THREE MINISTERS OF STATE WILL REPORTEDLY COORDINATE THE ECONOMIC, DEFENSE-EXTERNAL, AND SOCIAL SECTORS RESPECTIVELY,AND WILL CHAIR THE ECONOMIC STABILIZATION COUNCIL, POLITICAL STABILIZATION COUNCIL AND SOCIAL STABILIZATION COUNCIL MEETINGS (THE FIRST TWO HAVE HERETOFORE BEEN CHAIRED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE LAST WOULD BE A NEW CREATION. WHAT ACTUAL AUTHORITY IF ANY THEY WOULD OFFICIALLY BE GIVEN OVER MINISTERS IN THEIR SECTOR IS NOT CLEAR. ALSO UNCLEAR IS WHICH MINISTER WOULD COORDINATE INTERIOR MINISTRY FIVE JUNIOR MINISTERS (MENTERI MUDA) WILL HEAD NEW
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DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH, TECHNOLOGY, COOPERATIVES, HOUSING AND TRANSMIGRATION.THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND PERHAPS AGRICULTURE AS WELL WILL, ACCORDING TO MANY SOURCES, HAVE BOTH A MINISTER AND A JUNIOR MINISTER.

3. OVERALL THERE WILL PROBABLY BE FEWER TECHNOCRATA AND MORE MILITARY IN THE CABINET. ALTHOUGH MANY OLD, FAMILIAR

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FACES WILL DISAPPEAR, TRULY YOUNG BLOOD HAS SELDOM BEEN MENTIONED ABOVE THE JUNIOR MINISTER LEVEL.

A. WIDJOJO NITISASTRO WILL BY ALL ACCOUNTS HEAD THE ECONOMIC SECTOR, FURTHER FORMALIZING A ROLE HE HAS PLAYED FOR MANY YEARS. GENERAL PANGGABEAN IS TO MOVE UPSTAIRS TO THE DEFENSE-EXTERNAL COORDINATING POSITION. GENERAL SURONO IS MOST OFTEN MENTIONED AS THE LEADING CANDIDATE FOR THE SOCIAL COORDINATING ROLE BUT THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHERS IN THE RUNNING INCLUDING CURRENT MINISTER OF INTERIOR AMIRMACHMUD.

B. THE SULTAN OF JOGJAKARTA MAY ENTER THE CABINET AS A MINISTER OF STATE WITH NO PORTIFOLIO BUT ADVOSORY RESPONSIBILITIES ACCORDING TO SOME GOLKAR SOURCES, BUT THIS MAY BE WISHFUL THINKING.

C. MOCHTAR KUSUMAATMADJA IS THE FRONT RUNNER FOR FOREIGN MINISTER AND CURRENT INDUSTRIES MINISTER GENERAL ANDI JUSUF FOR DEFENSE. FORMER AMBASSADOR RUSMIN NURJADIN IS A HEAVY FAVORITE FOR THE COMMUNICATIONS PORTFOLIO. EMIL SALIM,N WHOM RUSMIN IS TO REPLACE, MIGHT TAKE THE NATIONAL PLANNING BODY (BAPPENAS) NOW HELD BY WIDJOJO. EAST JAVA GOVERNOR SUNANDAR, CHIEF OF STAFF FOR FUNCTIONAL AFFAIRS DARYATMO, CENTRAL JAVA GOVERNOR SUPARDJO AND PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR ALI MURTOPO ARE ALL POSSIBILITIES FOR INTERIOR MINISTER. SUNANDAR AND SUPARDJO ARE ALSO AGRICULTURE MINISTER CANDIDATES. IF MURTOPO DOES NOT GET INTERIOR, HE WILL GET INFORMATION, HIS CSIS SUPPORTERS SAY. CSIS STAFFERS ALSO HAVE THEIR HONORARY CHAIRMAN, MAJOR GEN-

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ERAL SUDJONO HUMARDANI AND THEIR CHAIRMAN DAUD JUSUF ENTERING THE CABINET (THE LATTER AS EDUCATION MINISTER) BUT OTHER SOURCES DISAGREE. BANKING SOURCES HAVE BANK OF INDONESIA GOVERNOR SALEH TAKING FINANCE. IF THIS HAPPENS, BANK BUMI DAYA PRESIDENT OMAR ABDALLAH IS FREQUENTLY MENTIONED AS SUCCESSOR TO SALEH AT THE CENTRAL BANK.

D. VIRTUALLY ALL SOURCES AGREE THAT THE CURRENT MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE, THOJIB; THAJEB; FINANCE, ALI WARDHANA; HEALTH, SIWABESSY; AND MANPOWER, SUBROTO, WILL LEAVE. MINISTER OF MINES SADLI IS ALSO OFTEN MENTIONED AS BEING DROPPED. ONE OF THE INTRIGUING QUESTIONS IS WHETHER BARLI HALIM, CHAIRMAN OF THE IMPORTANT CAPITAL INVESTMENT COORDINATING BOARD WILL BE CONTINUED. THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS THAT HE WOULD BE REPLACED BY A MORE DYNAMIC PERSON, BUT THIS MAY BE MORE IN THE REALM OF WISHFUL THINKING.

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SP-02 SS-15 /050 W
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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 JAKARTA 3539

E. THE JUNIOR FOREIGN MINISTER MAY BE CURRENT AMBASSADOR TO THE UN ANWAR SANI, OR, LESS LIKELY, A MILITARY MAN. (IF SANI GETS THE JOBS, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S TOP THREE OFFICERS COULD BE CIVILIAN, A RECORD FOR THE NEW ORDER.) GOLKAR LEADER COSMOS BATUBARA WILL GET ONE OF THE OTHER JUNIOR MINISTERIAL POSITIONS AND MAY BE JOINED BY AN ARMY MAJOR AND A MOSLEM DOCTOR; GOLKAR SOURCES SAY.

F. CABINET APPOINTMENTS WILL, OF COURSE, VACATE KEY MILITARY POSITIONS WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE FILLED IN ROUGHLY THE SAME TIME FRAME. ARMED FORCES COMMANDER POSITION WILL PRESUMABLY REMAIN WITH DEFENSE MINISTER. CURRENT KOPKAMTIB COMMANDER SUDOMO IS RUMORED TO BE SURONO'S REPLACEMENT AS DEPUTY ARMED FORCES COMMANDER AND MAY BE REPLACED EITHER BY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR FUNCTIONAL AFFAIRS DARYATMO OR POLICE COMMANDER WIDODO. AMBASSADOR TO BONN AWALUDDIN DJAMIN IS REPORTEDLY BEING RECALLED TO REPLACE WIDODO.

4. CHANGEST IN OTHER HIGH STATE OFFICES ARE ALSO IN THE OFF-ING. IF IDHAM CHALID'S PARTY CONTINUES TO PREVENT HIM FROM TAKING THE MPR/DPR CHAIR (SEE JAKARTA 3459), CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE ACCOUNTING OFFICE RETIRED GENERAL UMAR WIRAHADI-KUSUMAH MAY TAKE THIS OFFICE. AMBASSADOR TO PARIS MOHAMMADN NUR IS ALSO A POTENTIAL CANDIDATE FOR THIS OR A MINISTERIAL POSITION CHALID WILL LIKELY BECOME CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME

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ADVISORY COUNCIL.

5. COMMENTS: THE PERSONALITIES MENTIONED BY EMBASSY SOURCES DO NOT IN THEMSELVES SPELL ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN POLICY AND SHOULD NOT IMPACT MATERIALLY ON U.S. INTERESTS. THEY

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WOULD ALSO NOT SEEM TO ADD TRULY NEW BLOOD OR DYNAMISM TO
THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH MANY INDONESIAN FEEL ESSENTIAL TO
CARRY SUHARTO THROUGH THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. MURTOPO'S
AND/OR SUDJONO HUMARDANI'S ENTRY INTO THE CABINET
WOULD BE REGARDED AS RETROGRESSIVE BY MANY IN
AND OUTSIDE THE MILITARY, BUT WE QUESTION WHETHER SUHARTO WILL
TAKE THIS STEP. WE WILL RESERVE FURTHER COMMENT UNTIL
WE SEE SUHARTO'S LIST, WHICH COULD DIFFER SUBSTANTIALLY
FROM THOSE BEING BRUITED ABOUT BY HIS AIDES.
MASTERS

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